



State of Utah  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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April 23, 2002

Wendell Owen, Mine Manager  
Co-Op Mining Company  
P.O. Box 1245  
Huntington, Utah 84528

Re: Conditional Approval of Blind Canyon Seam Portal, Co-Op Mining Company, Bear Canyon Mine, C/015/025-AM02A-1, Outgoing File

Dear Mr. Owen:

The above-referenced amendment is conditionally approved upon receipt of 7 clean copies and updated C1 and C2 forms prepared for incorporation. Please submit these copies by May 15, 2002. Once we receive these copies, final approval will be granted, at which time you may proceed with your plans.

A stamped incorporated copy of the approved plans will also be returned to you at that time, for insertion into your copy of the Mining and Reclamation Plan. A copy of our Technical Analysis is enclosed.

If you have any questions, please call me at (801) 538-5325.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daron R. Haddock".

Daron R. Haddock  
Permit Supervisor

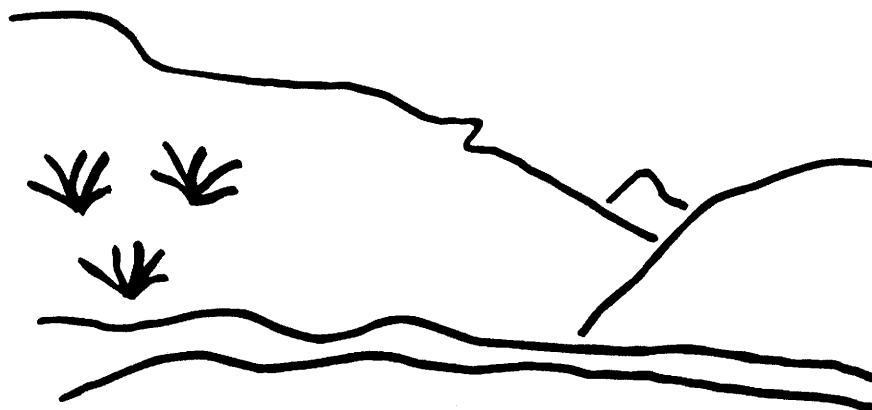
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Enclosure

cc: Price Field Office

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# State of Utah



## Utah Oil Gas and Mining

### Coal Regulatory Program

Bear Canyon Mine  
Blind Canyon Seam Portal  
C/015/025-AM02A-1  
Technical Analysis  
April 18, 2002

INTRODUCTION

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## TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

### INTRODUCTION

On January 11, 2002, the Division received amendment AM02A, for the addition of a forth portal at the Wild Horse Ridge facility in the Blind Canyon seam. The major changes to the MRP are the addition/reclamation of the forth portal and the increase in the reclamation cost estimate.

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April 18, 2002

## INTRODUCTION

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## ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: Pub. L 95-87 Sections 507(b), 508(a), and 516(b); 30 CFR 783., et. al.

### MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 783.24, 783.25; R645-301-323, -301-411, -301-521, -301-622, -301-722, -301-731.

#### Analysis:

##### Affected Area Boundary Maps

The Division usually considers the affected area to be the same as the permitted area. The Permittee does not propose to change either the affected area of the permitted area. Therefore, the Permittee does not have to change any of the pre-mining permit area maps.

##### Permit Area Boundary Maps

The Permittee will not change the permitted boundaries for the addition of the forth portal at the Wild Horse Ridge site.

#### Findings:

The Permittee met the minimum requirements of this section of the regulations.

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April 18, 2002

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION**

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**OPERATION PLAN**

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## **OPERATION PLAN**

### **MINING OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 784.2, 784.11; R645-301-231, -301-526, -301-528.

#### **Analysis:**

##### **General**

The Permittee proposes to add a forth portal to the Blind Canyon seam at the Wild Horse Ridge site. The new portal will be located in the same area as the three approved portals. The only change to the disturbed area is a slight increase to the highwall area.

#### **Findings:**

The Permittee met the minimum requirements of the regulations.

### **SUPPORT FACILITIES AND UTILITY INSTALLATIONS**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.30, 817.180, 817.181; R645-301-526.

#### **Analysis:**

The Permittee proposes to add a forth portal at the Wild Horse Ridge site in the Blind Canyon seam. The portal will be located next to the approved portals. See Plate 2-4G for details.

#### **Findings:**

The Permittee met the minimum requirements for this section.

### **MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF MINING OPERATIONS**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.23; R645-301-512, -301-521, -301-542, -301-632, -301-731, -302-323.

#### **Analysis:**

##### **Affected area maps**

The affected area is usually considered the same as the permitted area. The Permittee will not change the permit area in connection with the additional portal.

**Mining facilities maps**

Plate 2-4G shows the surface facilities for the Wild Horse Ridge site. The revised map shows the location of the four portals and the highwall boundary.

**Mine workings maps**

Plate 3-4A shows the location of the four portals that will be used to access the Blind Canyon Seam. The Permittee does not propose to change

**Findings:**

The Permittee met the minimum requirements of this section of the regulations.



**RECLAMATION PLAN**

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## **RECLAMATION PLAN**

### **APPROXIMATE ORIGINAL CONTOUR RESTORATION**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.15, 785.16, 817.102, 817.107, 817.133; R645-301-234, -301-270, -301-271, -301-412, -301-413, -301-512, -301-531, -301-533, -301-553, -301-536, -301-542, -301-731, -301-732, -301-733, -301-764.

#### **Analysis:**

The Permittee proposes to add an additional portal to the Wild Horse Ridge site. The addition portal will require a small increase in the highwall area. The increased size will be between 15' to 20' in length. The Permittee did include any cross sections for the new portal and the increased highwall area. Since the highwall construction consists of removing 8 to 10 feet of talus and reclamation consists of replacing the material, the Division found that complete highwall elimination would occur during reclamation.

#### **Findings:**

The Permittee met the minimum requirements of this section of the regulations.

### **BACKFILLING AND GRADING**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 785.15, 817.102, 817.107; R645-301-234, -301-537, -301-552, -301-553, -302-230, -302-231, -302-232, -302-233.

#### **Analysis:**

##### **General**

The backfilling and grading requirements for the area have been covered in the AOC section. The area is small and will be backfilled and graded to the standards in the approved MRP.

#### **Findings:**

The Permittee met the minimum requirements of this section of the regulations.

## **MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF RECLAMATION OPERATIONS**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.23; R645-301-323, -301-512, -301-521, -301-542, -301-632, -301-731.

### **Analysis:**

#### **Bonded area map**

The bonded area is usually the same as the disturbed area boundary map. The Permittee does not plan to change the disturbed area boundaries. The disturbed area boundary map that shows the final topography is Plate 3-2G, which did not change.

#### **Reclamation backfilling and grading maps**

The backfilling and grading map Plate 3-2G did not change. The addition of the forth portal will create only a minor disturbance.

### **Findings:**

The information provided in the amendment is considered adequate to meet the requirements of the approximate original contour requirements of the regulations.

## **BONDING AND INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 800; R645-301-800, et seq.

### **Analysis:**

#### **Determination of bond amount**

The Permittee did not include any additional earthwork costs for reclaiming the highwall area. The Division has reviewed the backfilling and grading maps and determined that the increased earthwork would be minor, less than 5% of the total earthwork cost. Therefore, the Division will not require and additional earthwork calculations. Note: in general most earthwork calculations generally only come within 10% of each other.

The Division will include the portal closure cost for the forth portal. Note: The Division has recently changed the unit cost for portal closure from \$12,500 per portal to \$5,000 per portal. Therefore, the reclamation cost for the site should decrease.

RECLAMATION PLAN

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**Findings:**

The Permittee met the minimum requirements for this section of the regulations.

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